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Hasty Retreat of Short Interest

Bear Contingent Evidently Deemed It Expedient to Reduce Commitments

New York, Sept. 2.—The short interest evidently either found it compulsory or expedient to reduce its commitments over the triple holiday. The result was today's stock market did the unexpected. The majority came downtown prepared to witness a listless and sagging foreign market. To the contrary, and much to the surprise of many, the list, especially the industrial division, was clean from the outset and continued to do well the remainder of the forenoon. To make the situation more uncomfortable for the over-stayed shorts interest, a number of the pool managers bid up their favorites vigorously on every attempt to cover. By midday the active speculative favorites and others in the intermediate quarter showed gains ranging from 1 to 10 points. The rails did not do much, receiving only secondary consideration. When they did move, they were run up with alacrity, as strikingly shown in Northern Pacific and St. Paul preferred.

It was not necessary to look beyond the four walls of the Stock Exchange for the animated upturn. It was based on technical conditions, although constructional elements were not lacking in the news and developments. On the other hand, if the professional contingent had felt so disposed a fairly good bearish argument could easily have been made out of the Mexican advices telling of President Obregon's special message to Congress asking him to unite with United States in impossible to that end special privileges for Americans. This kind of news, quite of different coloring from the bull pap put out yesterday, upset the Mexican oils for a time, but the incident was promptly ignored by the general list. Furthermore, the bear contingent before high noon was reached for reasons for regretting its inaccurate early measurement of the market tempo.

In the weekly statements of the Federal Reserve systems further encouraging testimony was supplied attesting to the further consistent improvement in the banking situation. On the same line of thought considerable bullish ammunition was derived from the cotton crop report which was interpreted as a life signal for the high cotton market. Then there was no further tightening of pursestrings in the money market, as call loan renewals were again fixed at 5½ per cent, that rate applying also to loans extending into next week, thereby dissipating all fears of slight dally because of the triple holiday.

All of these factors, of course, contributed to strengthen the list, but the most important factor was one of self-preservation. The possibilities of some big stimulating factor turning up over the three-day suspension naturally made the short position altogether too hazardous, especially when the larger percentage of the trading contingent had a bearish sort of leaning.

LOCAL SHORTS ALSO SKITTISH

Both Electric Storage Battery and P. R. T. Scored Substantial Rallies

Commodity Markets

GRAIN MARKET

Chicago, Sept. 2.—September wheat started 4½ to 5¢ lower; December steady to 4½ lower and May unchanged to 4½ higher. After the start, the market was nearly a point lower at 17, and 15½ points above the low mark of the week. Possibly it would be entirely safe to say that the market in these two stocks was prompted by the same influences as that which raised prices so rapidly on the big board, viz., a decision on the part of the short interest to discount the previous close.

Trade was nervous, with action rapid. Receipts insipid yesterday were 108 cars; last year 75 cars. The cash market was relatively steady. County offerings to arrive were limited. Southwest advances late yesterday told of less liberal selling and firmer premiums there. Minneapolitan mills quoted leading brands of white flour 200 barrels 13½, checks 13½, marks 13½; Swiss cables 17½, checks 17½; Copenhagen cables 17½, checks 17½; Stockholm cables 21½, checks 21½; Christiania cables 13½, checks 13½; Gudbergs cables 32½, checks 31½.

Swiss premium on New York funds is 10½ per cent. The Canadian funds was 9½-10 per cent.

Central European exchanges were uncommunicated to the other local shares. Elsewhere the trading was of the ordinary type. In fact, there was very little done. Five shares of Lake Superior Corporation were taken at 6½. Small transactions were recorded in Cambria Iron and Lehigh Valley. Pennsylvania Railroad was dull but firm. More than passing interest was attached to the statement that the larger holders were revaluing in the market. The result in these two stocks was prompted by the same influences as that which raised prices so rapidly on the big board, viz., a decision on the part of the short interest to discount the previous close.

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